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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/581,984

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Devan Govender

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EXAMINER

LOPEZ, ELDRED ISAAC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/581,984	Applicant(s) GOVENDER ET AL.	
	Examiner ELDRED I. LOPEZ	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6 July 2006, 28 August 2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 5, 7-15, 17, 18, 21-14, 28, 30-39, 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wolf (US 20050101387). Wolf discloses a device for playing a bingo game.

Wolf also discloses:

Regarding claims 1 and 24, a plurality of player stations, each player station being operable by a respective player to place a wager on a turn of a game of bingo (Paragraph 11, Figure 20); a random event generator activatable to generate a number of random events upon which an outcome of the game of bingo is based (Paragraph 11), the outcome being either an unfavorable outcome in which the player forfeits the wager, and at least one favorable outcome in which the player wins a corresponding prize (Paragraph 11); display means associated with each respective player station, the display means being instructable by the player station to the respective player (Paragraph 11, Figure 20), a) a simulation of the turn of the game of bingo, b) a simulation of a turn of an entertainment game having an outcome that is unfavorable when the outcome of the turn of the game of bingo is an unfavorable outcome, and a favorable outcome when the outcome of the game of bingo is a favorable outcome, causing the player to win the same corresponding prize as the game of bingo (Paragraph 21), c) a simulation of a turn of a

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multistage bonus game, the simulation of the multistage bonus game being randomly activatable whenever the entertainment game has a favorable outcome to cause the player to win the same corresponding prize as the entertainment game (Paragraph 50, 60).

Regarding claims 5 and 28, in which the display means displays only one of the simulations of the entertainment game and the multistage bonus game at any instant (Figure 3A).

Regarding claims 7 and 30, in which the random event generator is executable in a gaming server remote from the plurality of player stations, the gaming server being communicable with each one of the plurality of remote player stations by means of a communication network (Paragraph 11, Figure 19).

Regarding claim 8, in which the entertainment game is a game of video slots (Paragraph 49).

Regarding claims 9 and 31, in which the game of bingo has 75 uniquely numbered balls and a random event generated by the random event generator corresponds to the drawing at random of one of the 75 uniquely numbered balls (Paragraph 52).

Regarding claims 10 and 32, in which a player bingo card associated with the game of bingo has 25 positions thereon arranged in a 5 by 5 grid, each grid position being numbered with a respective random number from 1 to 75 (Figure 4).

Regarding claims 11 and 33, in which one favorable outcome of the game of bingo corresponds to a game ending pattern causing the turn of the game of bingo to terminate, the game ending pattern arising when all the numbers on at least one player bingo card match the numbers drawn by the random event generator (Paragraph 3).

Regarding claims 12 and 34, in which the game of bingo has a plurality of further favorable outcomes, each one for the plurality of further favorable outcomes arising when all the numbers in a predetermined pattern on at least one player bingo card match the numbers drawn by the random event generator (Paragraph 5).

Regarding claims 13 and 35, in which the random event generator draws at random a first set of 24 of the 75 balls and transmits data corresponding to the first set of 24 balls to each one of the player stations (Paragraph 8).

Regarding claims 14 and 36, in which each one of the player stations activates a prize claiming means operable by the player to claim any favorable outcome arising from the first set of 24 balls (Paragraphs 5, 8).

Regarding claim 15, in which the prize claiming means is any one of a pushbutton on the player terminal or an activatable icon on the display means (Paragraph 153).

Regarding claims 17 and 37, in which the random event generator draws at random further balls one at a time, and in which the gaming server checks for the occurrence of a game ending pattern on any of the player bingo cards after the drawing of each ball (Paragraph 8).

Regarding claims 18 and 38, in which the gaming server transmits data corresponding to all the drawn balls necessary for the occurrence of the game ending pattern to each one of the player stations if the game ending pattern is not the last possible game ending pattern in the turn of the game of bingo (Paragraph 5, Figure 19).

Regarding claims 21 and 41, in which the random event generator draws all the remaining balls if the game ending pattern is the last possible game ending pattern in the turn of the game of bingo, and the gaming server transmits data corresponding to all the drawn balls

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necessary for the occurrence of the last game ending pattern and the remaining balls to each one of the player stations (Paragraph 5, Figure 19).

Regarding claims 22 and 42, in which each one of the player stations activates the prize claiming means operable by a player to claim a favorable outcome arising from the occurrence of the last possible game ending pattern, and in which the gaming server terminates the turn of the game of bingo if a player claims the favorable outcome (Paragraph 5, Figure 19).

Regarding claims 23 and 43, in which the prize claiming means remains activated until a player claims the favorable outcome (Paragraph 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-4, 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf (US 20050101387), and further in view of Beaulieu et al (US 20030236110). Wolf discloses all the elements as previously claimed but lacks disclosing terminating a game after a randomly selectable number of sequential stages of the bonus game. Beaulieu teaches terminating a game after a randomly selectable number of sequential stages of the bonus game (Paragraph 69, 71). Wolf and Beaulieu are analogous art because they both teach similar bingo games. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine both Wolf and Beaulieu because one would be motivated to provide a game that provides a random number of sequential bonus stages to

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increase player excitement and therefore draw the player to play even more. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have provided a method for providing player identification by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results.

5. Regarding claim 6, 29, Wolf discloses all the elements as previously claimed but lacks disclosing a secondary display means. Beaulieu teaches a secondary display means (Paragraph 166). Wolf and Beaulieu are analogous art because they both teach similar bingo games. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine both Wolf and Beaulieu because one would be motivated to easily view the bingo game so as not to confuse the player. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have provided a method for providing player identification by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results.

6. Claims 16, 19, 20 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf (US 20050101387), and further in view of Lind et al (US 20040152508). Wolf discloses all the elements as previously claimed but lacks disclosing claiming a prize in a predetermined period of time. Lind teaches claiming a prize in a predetermined period of time (Paragraph 41). Wolf and Lind are analogous art because they both teach similar bingo games. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine both Wolf and Lind because one would be motivated to allow the gaming establishment to keep the winnings that the player failed to claim thereby minimizing the establishment's losses. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have provided a method for providing player identification by

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known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Marks et al (US 7402102), Boyd et al (US 20040166920).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELDRED I. LOPEZ whose telephone number is (571)270-3771. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eldred Lopez/
Patent Examiner

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/Scott E. Jones/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714